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MEMORIAL.

A Testimony of Birmingham Monthly Meeting of Friends, Pennsylvania, concerning JOSEPH SCATTERGOOD, *a Minister, deceased.*

From the lively remembrance we have of the religious services and exemplary Christian walk of our late beloved friend, Joseph Scattergood, we are engaged to issue a memorial concerning him, as a testimony to the effect of early submission to the transforming power of Divine Grace, which made him what he was, and as an incentive to others to so follow Christ, that they also may become prepared to serve Him, as did this, our beloved Friend.

He was the son of Joseph and Mary Scattergood, and was born in the city of Philadelphia on the 18th day of Seventh Month, 1839. He became a member of this meeting in 1860, and in the Tenth Month of that year married Elizabeth, daughter of David and Deby Cope.

In his nineteenth year he wrote, "Humility and meekness are essentials necessary for a

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Christian, but I fear I lack both in too great a degree. Entire resignation to Divine disposal is a great attainment, and is, I trust, what I sincerely hope to be truly sensible of. There is some consolation in the thought that Jacob wrestled all the night, and I sometimes experience a hope that if I strive to do right I will not be forsaken by my Heavenly Father, but that in his own good time, which will be the best time, He will condescend to pour the 'oil and the wine' into my often distressed soul."

Having thus in early life set his face heavenward, and yielded to the constraining and restraining power of Divine Grace, he was enabled to grow therein, and was qualified to fill several important stations in our Society. In the Eighth Month of 1875, he, with others, was appointed by Concord Quarterly Meeting to visit its subordinate meetings. Of this appointment he says: "The service was an important one, and proved to my mind very instructive, introducing me into earnest desires that I might in no way bring reproach upon the precious cause I was professing to advance." "In some of these meetings my mind was much impressed with matter which seemed to me to require expression, and in several of the Monthly Meetings I ventured to express what impressed me; also

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in a few families where religious opportunities occurred, I expressed a little which seemed to arise with freshness. The first of these was at the family of a Friend, where during the evening, after falling into silence, my mind was impressed with this passage of Scripture: 'Affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground,' believing it right to express it, which I did with a few comments, which seemed to come before me for expression. This act of dedication was followed by comfortable feelings."

The first public appearance in the ministry of our friend was in a Preparative Meeting at Chester, in the First Month of 1876, in regard to which he says, "The constraining influence, as I believe, of Divine love, was so strongly felt that I yielded, and kneeling down in the second meeting, uttered these words: 'We acknowledge, Oh Lord, that we are poor and weak and feeble, but we know that Thou art strong and mighty; and we are emboldened to entreat Thee to pour out upon those of this place and elsewhere, such a measure of thy Holy Spirit, that we cannot resist it; that we may be thereby enabled, even as those have been who have gone before us, to serve Thee and our generation also in accordance with thy

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holy will: and in the end be permitted through thy adorable mercy to enter one of those blessed mansions which Thou hast promised to all those who are faithful unto Thee.' This act was succeeded by such feelings as I never remember to have experienced: a peaceful solemnity or awe seemed to cover my spirit for some days, and I hoped that what I had done was not displeasing to my Heavenly Father."

Under date of Tenth Month, 1876, he writes: "As I entered our meeting-house gate a passage of Scripture very powerfully arrested my attention, and the thought presented, 'Suppose I am required to proclaim it among us.' After taking my seat I became, as I thought, sensible that the service would be required at that time, but I felt so fearful of being deceived that I craved that if my Heavenly Father did require it, his power might be manifested by my being raised upon my feet without effort of my own. This thought had not much more than passed through my mind till I found myself standing before the congregation, and these words ran through me almost without effort: 'It is with me, my beloved friends, to revive in our hearing the gracious invitation of our Holy Redeemer when he said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give

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you rest; take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls: for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Earnest are my desires that we who are in the prime and vigor of our day may comply with this precious invitation, and thus be preserved from the many snares and temptations which an unwearied adversary is continually throwing before us. For I believe there are those in this assembly who can acknowledge from their own experience that his yoke is easy, his burden is light, and his reward for faithful obedience is unspeakably precious.' My mind since this surrender, has been preserved calm and comfortable, and an absence of condemnation encourages me to believe that this appearance was in Divine ordering, and whether ever called to the same service again or not, I desire to bear in mind the condescension of my Heavenly Father in furnishing me with an evidence that He still continues to be gracious and merciful to all those who are earnestly desiring to follow and serve Him."

In the attendance of religious meetings he was diligent, not allowing press of business to prevent him from thus mingling with his friends for the solemn purpose of worshipping Him

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who is a spirit, and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth.

In the beginning of the year 1880, his Monthly and Quarterly Meetings acknowledged his gift and recorded him a minister of the Gospel. In a letter to a friend, dated Second Month 27th, 1880, he alludes to this subject as follows: "Respecting the important step which the members of our Monthly and Quarterly Meetings have taken in my case, I confess it almost makes me shudder at times, when the responsibility of the position in which I am placed, comes before me in its various bearings. And I can and do very earnestly desire to be preserved on every hand, and made a vessel truly qualified and fit for the Master's use. Ah, I feel very sensibly that the gift is in a truly earthen vessel; yet I know that He who in mercy dispenses his gifts, is also able and willing to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless at the end of the race, before the throne of his glory with exceeding joy. I often crave that this blessed experience may be mine."

His ministry was clear and connected, free from unnecessary repetition, and in the exercise of it he was concerned to wait for fresh anointing from on high. He was often led to unfold the doctrine of redeeming love and

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mercy, to exalt the Saviour of the world, and to bear emphatic testimony to his propitiatory offering on Calvary for the sins of the whole world. He was earnest in pressing upon his hearers the necessity of accepting Him in all his offices. He was often solemnly engaged in our religious meetings in supplicating the Throne of Grace, especially for the preservation of the children and rising generation; and on more than one occasion, his affectionate pleading in our business meetings for the removal of all hardness of feeling that might exist among our members, was very tender and earnest. His example in silent waiting was very instructive. He was at times eminently endued with a clear discernment of the state of individuals, and in the power of the Gospel was made instrumental in baptizing many into deep contrition, through a heartfelt sense of their own condition.

Sympathy with the afflicted was a marked characteristic of our beloved friend. In the sick chamber he was often engaged to intercede that the afflictions thus meted out might, in the Lord's time, redound to his praise and to his glory.

Being of an affable, engaging disposition, he had much place with those who came within

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the sphere of his influence. This, no doubt, caused his ministerial offerings to be more acceptable and helpful in winning souls to Christ, the Chief Shepherd.

He was especially affectionate and tender in his own family, and sympathetic toward his young friends; and his friendship was felt to be helpful, encouraging them in the path of self denial. He was quick to notice in them any action, however small it might seem to others, which evinced to him that they were endeavoring to serve their Heavenly Father; showing to them, both by example and precept, that a religious life, far from being a gloomy one, is truly a life of happiness. It may be said of him that his house and heart were always open for the entertainment of his friends, particularly such as were travelling in the ministry.

He was often drawn forth in a loving concern for the young and the middle-aged, especially those just starting in business, and those near his own age, exhorting them to yield themselves in the morning of their day to the restraints of the cross of Christ, and to the attendance of mid-week meetings, believing they would find a blessing in so doing, and thus would be enabled to become helpers in promoting Christ's cause, and entreating them to

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be more earnest and dedicated to the service of Him whose love is infinite, and whose power is beyond measure; and that it might be their individual resolution, Let others do as they may, "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." On these occasions his ministry was not with the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power.

In the Fourth Month, 1878, he was deprived, by death, of his beloved wife, which was to him a very close trial, but he subsequently acknowledged, "I have abundant cause of gratitude to our Heavenly Father, who, though He woundeth, yet his hands make whole." In the fall of 1881 he was married to our friend Mary Ann, daughter of the late Samuel and Ann Cope.

In 1882, as a member of the Yearly Meeting's Committee to visit the subordinate meetings and members, he attended a small meeting, of which he says, "I went to the meeting in much poverty, but in process of time was enabled to bear testimony to the power and efficacy and universality of Divine Grace, rising with the language of Revelation, "Behold I stand at the door and knock," &c., and endeavoring to show that it was only by diligent and faithful co-operation with the visitations of Divine love

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that we could know what it was spiritually to sup with Him and He with us.

At the end of the year 1883, he wrote, "As the year is now about closing, it seems well for me thus to record, that to my own immediate family it has been a year of blessing, of happiness and health. It is my fervent prayer that we each may be kept during the year just dawning as in the hollow of the Lord's holy hand, and enabled to live still nearer to our Heavenly Father, knowing his blessed work to be carried on within, till the enemies of our own household are entirely subdued."

Near the close of the year 1885, he obtained liberty from his Monthly Meeting to pay a religious visit to the meetings composing Caln Quarterly Meeting, of which he writes, "During the visit I felt sensible of Best Help being extended in the needful time, qualifving to engage in the ministry at all the meetings."

In reviewing the events of the preceding ten years he thus records his feelings in 1887: "And now the earnest desire of my soul is as I pen these lines, to know Him yet more and more intimately, to love and obey Him yet more devotedly, and to be prepared through his mercy and by his power to enter, when my time comes, that rest which is prepared for the people of God."

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During the greater part of the last two years of his life he was closely occupied as a member of a committee appointed by the Yearly Meeting, in attending meetings within its limits, in reference to which, he writes, First Month 22d, 1889, "Let us, my dear friend, continue to love and serve Him here as well as we can, and then when the day's work is ended, however arduous or tribulated, or exercising it may have been, the assurance remains that there remaineth a rest, glorious and eternal in his holy kingdom."

On the 29th of Twelfth Month, 1889, he attended his own meeting at West Chester, and was engaged to address those assembled upon the uncertainty of time, and the necessity of becoming prepared for our final change, affectionately pleading with all—particularly the young men, who were just entering upon the duties of life—to be willing to take up the cross of Christ who had laid down his precious life for their sakes; commenting upon the passage, "No man can serve two masters," in an earnest and impressive manner, and concluding with the words, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." During the afternoon of that day he more than once remarked, "How I am enjoying spending the day with my precious family," and as usual had them collected for reading the

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Holy Scriptures, after which he read one of the accounts recorded in "Youthful Piety." In the evening he was taken with a severe illness, and it soon became evident that his recovery was doubtful. On being asked early in his sickness if he wanted to get well, he replied, "Why, certainly, I don't feel ready to leave my precious family yet." At another time, "I have not been clearly shown, but if it is the Divine will, I would like to live; but if not, I want Him to prepare me and take me to Himself." On one occasion he remarked, "I feel as if I had been an unprofitable servant, if a servant at all: that is what my dear father said on his death-bed." At another time, "I don't know why this is permitted, unless it is for a testimony." In reply to the inquiry whether he felt anything in his way, he answered, "No, I believe not;" and again, as to whether he was afraid of death, "No, I believe not, but it is an awful, awful thing to die." Continuing conscious to within a few minutes of the close, in this peaceful and resigned state of mind, he quietly passed away on First-day afternoon, the 5th of First Month, 1890, in the fifty-first year of his age, to enter, we reverently believe, through mercy into the joy of his Lord.

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